



**Community Preparedness and Mass Care Funding
FAQ's – Compiled from Calls Held August 12, 16, 23, 2011**

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: You may participate in one or all technical assistance calls and meetings listed below. To participate dial 1-866-453-5550 enter participant pin 4108288#.

August 31, 2011	Lewisburg Osteopathic School 400 North Lee Street Lewisburg, WV 24901	During State Citizen Corps Council Meeting, 10am-1pm
September 6	Conference Call Only	3pm
September 14, 2011	Canaan Valley (@ SERC Conference)	12-12:30

Q: What if I can't make any calls or meetings?

A: If there is a need for additional calls we can easily add dates and times. If you would like us to schedule an additional call time – please email Heather.R.Foster@wv.gov.

Q: What framework will be used to prioritize applicants when the funding recommendations are made?

A: The criteria and point allotment per section are listed in the Project Concept Guidance document. Please carefully construct your Project Concept so you retain all points possible when your application is scored.

In addition the review committee will apply the following **framework** to applications as they are considered:

- 1) Is this an effective multi-organizational project?
- 2) Does it align with the funding priorities listed in the guidance?
- 3) Has the submission clearly related the project to high-risk/high-consequence events?
- 4) Does the project align effectively with State Homeland Security Strategy and the federal Target Capabilities List?
- 5) Is the project thoroughly described and likely to successfully improve the community's disaster preparedness?

Q: Can Staff Pre-review the project concepts?

A: No. In order to keep the process fair and open, we need to provide the same service to everyone. Since we don't know who will submit a Project Concept we aren't able to review them all. However, if you have questions about the grant review process at Volunteer West Virginia or about completing an application you may contact any of our current Citizen Corps Community Preparedness Grantees. Current Citizen Corps grantee contact information is listed at <http://www.ready.wv.gov/WestVirginiaCitizenCorps/Pages/CurrentGrants.aspx>.



West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
Homeland Security State Administrative Agency (SAA)
Technical Assistance – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do the Health Departments have to go through the County Commission for funding?

A: Yes, Health Departments and other types of government at the county level MUST apply through the County Commission or City government. Once the grant award is delivered to the County or City, they can pass the money to other organizations for project implementation.

Q: If an agency would like funding to serve the entire state – which County/City should they work with?

A: The agency should consider two points when deciding:

1. Which County/City government do you have the most stable/reliable working relationship with? It is in the best interests of the organization to choose a partner who you already work closely with.
2. Points are awarded for organizational capacity – Choose a County/City that can demonstrate previous grant success (especially with Homeland Security funds).

Q: What are the regional allocations?

A: There are no regional allocations. The funding is \$800,000 statewide for applicants that score highest during the review process. Applications are scored based on how well they answer the questions in the guidance document and those with the highest score will be recommended for funding.

Q: Who is on the Regional Committees?

A: There are no regional committees – a committee of peer reviewers will read and score the applications and make funding recommendations. That committee will have subject matter expertise in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, community development, grant making, planning, or volunteer management.

Q: What is the grant period of the funding?

A: January 2012- October 2012

Q: How can Health Departments/Community Agencies apply?

A: Absolutely – they need to have a fiscal agent that is running the money through the county commission.

Q: If an agency is part of a multi-county proposal, can they also submit their own proposal?

A: Yes if the proposal is for a separate project.

Q: Does Reverse 911 fit in Mass Care and Community Preparedness?

A: Explain to the review committee why it fits in. Essentially, “you tell me.”

Q: Can a multi-county proposal come from counties in different HS regions?

A: Sure

Q: Are vehicle purchases allowed?

A: Vehicle purchases are allowable equipment listed on the Authorized Equipment List. They will be considered for funding IF the applicant includes a very strong justification for the need, how the vehicle will be maintained and stored, and provides information to support this.



West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
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Technical Assistance – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What other purchases are allowed or not allowed?

A: No management and administration funding is available. Salaries are not allowed. Construction cost and land acquisition is not allowed. However, contracted work is allowable along with any other items listed on the AEL and other purchases included in the Planning, Training, Organization, and Exercise categories per State Homeland Security Grant guidance issued by FEMA.

Q: Is CERT training, Disaster Response stuff, etc. an allowable use?

A: It's a great use of the funding. In terms of disaster response the Homeland Security dollars can be used to plan, coordinate and implement systems to manage disaster response. It is not allowable to use the funding to purchase supplies for disaster victims.

Q: Can I use the funding to serve more than just a single county area?

A: We prefer that you do.

Q: What do you mean by mass care plan and what other types of activities are appropriate for this funding?

A: We mean it is in your best interest to develop a coordinated plan in collaboration with other stakeholders from your area or Region that includes nontraditional stakeholders, community and faith based organizations, and anyone else necessary to really meet the needs of residents or nonresidents during an emergency. The plan should be reasonable and achievable, and should be based on a true assessment of current capabilities and community need.

Q: How do we know what information to include in the project concept?

A: Please note that all the headings and information that should be included is listed in the Project Concept Guidance (pgs 6-7). It is in your best interest to use these headings and format exactly in your narrative section. Your project concept will be scored competitively on a 100 point scale.

Q: When is the other FY10 State Homeland Security Funding going to be released?

A: As soon as possible. The state is working to alter the funding process to meet everyone's needs as best as possible while staying true to the purpose and intent of the funding. Please be patient and keep a look out. Please also forward information to the appropriate parties in your counties.

Q: What other types of Homeland Security Funding will be released?

A: A process is not yet in place so we don't know how the remaining funding will be awarded. However, some of the remaining investments are: Credentialing, Cyber Security, Mass Care, Hazard and Risk Assessment, WMD/CBRNE/HAZMAT are some of the other investments yet to be released.

Q: If a regional group were to submit proposals for mass care assessment(s), volunteer training & mass care equipment (i.e. cots, blankets, etc), are we permitted to include that on one project concept?

A: Yes, it is preferable. Concepts are best if they are coordinated plans to implement a whole initiative. We prefer to see a project well thought out and then a budget which lists all of the purchases necessary to implement the whole program. For example, a well thought out and coordinated plan for community feeding could include a contractor fee to design the plan and convene stakeholders, training facilities, instructors, and manuals for volunteers who will do the feeding, and costs associated with development of partnerships for locations and storage.